



P.O. Box 1749  
Halifax, Nova Scotia  
B3J 3A5 Canada

**Item No. 12.2.2**  
**Executive Standing Committee**  
**December 13, 2021**

**TO:** Mayor Savage and Members of the Executive Standing Committee

**SUBMITTED BY:** - Original Signed-  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Jane McKay-Nesbitt, Chair, Women's Advisory Committee

**DATE:** December 2, 2021

**SUBJECT:** **Reviewing and Learning from the Steps Taken to Protect Muslim Canadians by Other Canadian Municipalities and Levels of Governments**

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**ORIGIN**

December 2, 2021 meeting of the Women's Advisory Committee, Item 6.1.

**LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY**

Administrative Order Number 2019-004-GOV, *Respecting the Women's Advisory Committee in the Halifax Regional Municipality*, section 6 (e) provides:

6. The Committee shall advise Council, through the Executive Standing Committee, on matters related to women as follows:

(e) advise and make recommendations about strategies designed to achieve the objectives of the Committee.

**RECOMMENDATION**

It is recommended that the Executive Standing Committee direct the Chief Administrative Officer to prepare a staff report that investigates other municipalities' work around anti-Muslim hate and racism and makes recommendations on potential actions to combat anti-Muslim hate and racism, particularly with respect to women, in Halifax Regional Municipality.

## **BACKGROUND**

The Women's Advisory Committee received a request for a Committee consideration form from Haneen Al-Noman for November 4, 2021 meeting to consider recommending Executive Standing Committee request a staff report that investigates other municipalities' work around anti-Muslim hate and racism and makes recommendations on potential actions to combat anti-Muslim hate and racism in Halifax Regional Municipality. The following motion was passed as follows:

MOVED by Haneen Al-Noman, seconded by Councillor Blackburn

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee recommend that the Executive Standing Committee request a staff report that investigates other municipalities' work around anti-Muslim hate and racism and makes recommendations on potential actions to combat anti-Muslim hate and racism in Halifax Regional Municipality.

For further information, refer to the Attachment 1 of this report.

## **DISCUSSION**

Following November 4, 2021 meeting, a request was made by Committee to consider rescinding the motion that was passed on November 4, 2021 meeting (Item 9.2.1). The intent of the Committee was to move a new motion that better addresses gender-based anti-Muslim hate and racism in Halifax Regional Municipality.

At the December 2, 2021 meeting of the Women's Advisory Committee, a motion to rescind was passed.

MOVED by Councillor Blackburn, seconded by Haneen Al-Noman

THAT the Women's Advisory Committee rescind the motion of November 4, 2021 to recommend that the Executive Standing Committee request a staff report that investigates other municipalities' work around anti-Muslim hate and racism and makes recommendations on potential actions to combat anti-Muslim hate and racism in Halifax Regional Municipality.

The Committee considered a new motion and approved the motion as outlined in the 'Recommendation' section of this report.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

## **RISK CONSIDERATION**

Risk consideration is not outlined in the consideration form.

## **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

A meeting held on December 2, 2021 was livestreamed and video recording is available at Halifax.ca.

The agenda and reports of the Women's Advisory Committee are posted on Halifax.ca, and draft minutes of the meeting will be made available on Halifax.ca within three business days.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS**

Environmental implications are not identified.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

The Women's Advisory Committee did not provide alternatives.

### **ATTACHMENTS**

Attachment 1 – A request for Women's Advisory Committee Consideration entitled: *Reviewing and Learning from the Steps Taken to Protect Muslim Canadians by Other Canadian Municipalities and Levels of Governments*

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A copy of this report can be obtained online at [halifax.ca](http://halifax.ca) or by contacting the Office of the Municipal Clerk at 902.490.4210.

Report Prepared by: Haruka Aoyama, Legislative Assistant, Municipal Clerk's Office 902.579.7239

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# Attachment 1



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## Item No. 9.2.1

Request for Women's Advisory Committee Consideration		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <b>Agenda Item</b> (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least 5 working days prior to the meeting)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Added Item</b> (Submitted to Municipal Clerk's Office by Noon at least one day prior to meeting)	<input type="checkbox"/> <b>Request from the Floor</b>
<b>Date of Meeting: November 4, 2021</b>		
<b>Subject: Reviewing and Learning from the Steps Taken to Protect Muslim Canadians by Other Canadian Municipalities and Levels of Governments</b>		
<b>Motion for Women's Advisory Committee to Consider:</b> That the Women's Advisory Committee recommend that the Executive Standing Committee request a staff report that investigates other municipalities' work around anti-Muslim hate and racism and makes recommendations on potential actions to combat anti-Muslim hate and racism in Halifax Regional Municipality.		
<b>Reason:</b> In the wake of the London tragedy, several Canadian municipalities have introduced a number of initiatives and policies to ensure the safety of their Muslim constituents. Muslims in Canada have been the victims of numerous hate-driven incidents. In Halifax, Muslim women also face hate-motivated incidents that risk escalating into violence.  It is important for the Halifax Regional Council to not only verbally condemn Islamophobia but to also take substantive steps to tackle Islamophobia locally. This is especially necessary for Muslim Haligonian women, who disproportionately experience higher rates of hate-motivated attacks.  A number of nationally recognized organizations presented a list of recommendations during the National Summit on Islamophobia. The Federal government stated its intent to explore potential policies, to engage Muslim communities on the next Anti-Racism Action Plan and to dedicate resources to combat Islamophobia. The recommendations outlined during the Summit and the actions of other jurisdictions present important lessons that can help us understand how to combat anti-Muslim hate and racism in Halifax, especially when it comes to protecting Muslim women.		
<b>Outcome Sought:</b> For the Halifax Regional Council to review and survey the steps other levels of governments have taken to tackle anti-Muslim hate and racism in their respective jurisdictions, in order to determine what the Municipality can do to support and protect Muslim constituents, specifically Muslim women.		
<i>Haneen Al-Noman, Member of Women's Advisory Committee</i>		